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March 23, 2000 LB 936A, 972A, 1004, 1115, 1124A, 1222, 1234 1381, 1399A

debated and studied this bill long enough today. I would ask for the advancement of the A bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. The question is the advancement of LB 936A. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote may. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 936A.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The bill is advanced. Mr. Clerk, items for the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, Enrollment, I'm sorry, Standing Committee reports. Natural Resources reports LB 1381 to General File. And Enrollment and Review reports LB 1124A, LB 1399A to Select File. New A bill, LB 972A by Senator Brown. (Read LB 972A by title for the first time.) Senator Schmitt, an amendment to LB 1234; Senator Brown to LB 1004; Senator Kiel to LB 1115. That's all that I had, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1252-1256.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Next bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, next bill is LB 1222. It's by Senator Vrtiska and others. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 12 of this year, referred to the Agriculture Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments by the Agriculture Committee, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 1222 is the Value-Added Partnerships Act and this is my priority bill for this year. The bill was advanced from the Agriculture Committee on a 7-0 vote. This bill creates a four-year competitive grant program to be operated jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development to stimulate value-added enterprises located in rural areas. LB 1222 contains a sunset date of June 30, 2004, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this program. In some